Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A virtual reality encounter system comprising,

a humanoid robot having tactile sensors positioned along the exterior of the robot, the sensors sending tactile signals ~~to~~ over a communications network; and

a body suit having tactile actuators, the actuators receiving the tactile signals from the corresponding tactile sensors on the robot from the communications network, ~~wherein~~ with the tactile sensors and the corresponding tactile actuators ~~are~~ calibrated in connection with variable sensitivity associated with different regions of a human; and

a gateway device, comprising:

a memory;

a computer storage medium storing data for generating supplemental virtual tactile sensation signals; and

a processor configured to execute computer instructions stored in the memory, the computer instructions configured to: ~~that~~

retrieve data from the computer storage medium;

generate the supplemental virtual tactile sensation signals from the data retrieved from the computer storage medium;

~~overlays~~ overlay the tactile signals from the corresponding tactile sensors with the generated supplemental tactile sensation signals ~~with stored virtual tactile sensations that are sent~~; and

send the overlaid tactile signals to the body suit

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

motion sensors positioned throughout the body suit, the motion sensors sending motion signals corresponding to movements of each sensor relative to a reference point, the motion signals transmitted to the communications network; and

the humanoid robot, receiving, from the communications network the signals from the motion sensors, the signals from the motion sensors causing a movement of the robot that is correlated to a movement of the body suit.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the robot includes actuators corresponding to the motion sensors, the actuators causing the robot to move.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the robot has life-like features, the robot comprises:

a body;

a camera coupled to the body, the camera for sending video signals to the communications network; and

a microphone coupled to the body, the microphone for sending audio signals to the communications network.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, further comprising:

a set of goggles including a display to render the video signals received from the camera and a transducer to transduce the audio signals received from the microphone.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, the robot is at a first location and the set of goggles is at a second location the system further comprising:

a second humanoid robot in the second location, the second robot having a second microphone and a second camera; and

a second set of goggles to receive the video signals from the first camera and a second earphone to receive the audio signals from the first microphone.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the ~~communications~~ gateway device is a [[a]] first ~~communications~~ gateway device in the first location; and the system further comprises:

a second ~~communications~~ gateway device having a processor in the second location, the second ~~processor~~ gateway device connected to the first ~~processor~~ gateway device via a network.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the ~~communications~~ gateway device comprises an interface having one or more channels ~~for~~ configured to:

~~receiving~~ receive the audio signals from the microphone;

receive the video signals from the camera;

send~~ing~~ send the video signals to the set of goggles; and

send~~ing~~ send the audio signals to the transducer.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the body includes an eye socket and the camera is positioned in the eye socket.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the body includes an ear canal and the microphone is positioned within the ear canal.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the set of goggles, comprises a receiver to receive the video signals.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the robot comprises a transmitter to wirelessly send the audio signals, tactile signals, motion signals and the video signals to the communications network.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of having a virtual encounter, comprising:

sending tactile signals ~~to~~ over a communications network from tactile sensors coupled to a humanoid robot, the tactile sensors positioned along the exterior of the robot; and

receiving the tactile signals from the communications network at a body suit having corresponding tactile actuators, ~~wherein~~ with the tactile sensors and the corresponding tactile actuators ~~are~~ calibrated in connection with variable sensitivity associated with different regions of a human;

generating by a gateway device having a computer storage medium supplemental virtual tactile sensation[[s]] signals based on data stored ~~virtual tactile sensations that are sent to the body suit~~ in the computer storage medium;

overlaying, by the gateway device, the tactile signals from the corresponding tactile sensors with the generated supplemental tactile sensation signals; and

sending the overlaid tactile signals to the body suit.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

sending motion signals from motion sensors positioned throughout the surface of a human, the motion signals corresponding to movements of each sensor relative to a reference point, the motion signals being transmitted to a communications network;

receiving, at the humanoid robot, the motion signals sent by the motion sensors; and

causing a movement of the robot that is correlated to a movement of the human based on the motion signals received from the motion sensors.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein receiving comprises receiving motion signals from the motion sensors at corresponding motion actuators coupled to the robot, causing a movement comprises the motion actuators causing the robot to move.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

sending audio signals over the communications network, the audio signals being produced from a microphone coupled to the robot;

sending video signals to the communications network, the video signals being produced from a camera coupled to the robot;

rendering the video signals received from the communications network using a display device embedded in a set of goggles; and

transducing the audio signals received from the communications network using a transducer embedded in the set of goggles.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

sending audio signals to the communications network from a second microphone coupled to a second robot having life-like features;

sending video signals to the communications network from a second camera coupled to the second robot;

rendering the video signals received from the communications network onto a monitor coupled to a second set of goggles; and

transducing the audio signals received from the communications network using a second transducer embedded in the second set of goggles.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the robot includes an eye socket and the camera is positioned in the eye socket.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the robot includes an ear canal and further comprising positioning the microphone within the ear canal.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the set of goggles, comprises a receiver to receive the video signals.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the robot further comprises a transmitter to wirelessly send the audio signals, the motion signals, the tactile signals and the video signals to the communications network.